

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please amend the specification by substituting the following Abstract of the Invention:

An instant messaging system provides instant message communication between computers, including multi-user computers. The system provides multiple concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer, one of the multiple concurrent instant message user logins being a registered buddy of a user of a second computer. The second computer is provided an indication that the registered buddy is one of multiple concurrent instant message user logins on a multi-user computer. The user of the second computer can send a message appropriate to be viewed on the multi-user computer. A video display may be rendered concurrently with the multiple concurrent instant message user logins. Instant messages are rendered over a portion of the video display. As a result, the instant messaging can operate smoothly with multi-user computers, protecting the privacy of instant messaging while minimizing the disruptiveness of instant messaging to accommodate shared use of a multi-user computer.

Please amend the specification by substituting paragraph [0018] with the following:

In the illustrated implementation, multi-user computer 100 is sometimes referred to as a "home" personal computer and has a central processing unit (CPU) 114 that is connected to display 110 and includes a processor, memory, data storage drives, etc., as is known in the art. A computer-readable medium includes random access memory (RAM), mass storage media, a disk drive and non-volatile memory (e.g. ROM, Flash, EPROM, EEPROM, etc.). Disk drive can include any type of magnetic or optical storage device, such as a hard disk drive, a magnetic tape, a rewriteable compact disc, a DVD and the like. As one example, multi-user computer 100 could operate a media-capable (e.g., audio, video, television, etc.) operating system that accommodates both conventional personal computer functionality and media functionality, such as the Windows® XP Media Center edition operating system, available from Microsoft Corporation. It will be appreciated, however, that other operating systems are also

capable of providing personal computer functionality and media functionality and that such systems may be employed by multiple users, whether located in a home or a work location.